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SAN JUAN—RAT PROOFING.

Passed Asst. Surg. Creel reported, July 17:

Regarding the rat proofing of wharves and warehouses on water front at San Juan, instructions have already been given for the rat proofing of docks, and this order will be effectually complied with at an early date. Large warehouses, however, offer certain obstacles to immediate rat proofing. In the first place, all concrete is imported, and the sudden increased demand for concrete work will soon drain the present supply. Again, many of the warehouses are filled with such large amounts of freight as to necessitate a considerable time for its removal. Both of these conditions will prevent immediate rat proofing of the larger warehouses, but orders for material have already been forwarded to the States, and the owners of warehouses have given every evidence of willingness to comply with the law in so far as they are able. There is only one large warehouse immediately on the water front. This is the customs warehouse, called the "Tinglado." Orders have been given, and will be executed, for the total destruction of the place within the following week, inasmuch as it can not be rat proofed excepting by entirely new construction.

Recently promulgated regulations for rat proofing follow:

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
San Juan, P. R., July 15, 1912.

[Administrative Bulletin No. 45.]

BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO.

A PROCLAMATION.

SANITARY RULES AND REGULATIONS No. 3.—RAT PROOFING OF ALL BUILDINGS AND OUTHouses IN PORTO RICO; REGULATIONS GOVERNING; PROMULGATED.

The following rules and regulations, prescribed by the insular board of health and approved by the executive council on July 11, 1912, are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAKING RAT PROOF OF ALL BUILDINGS AND OUTHouses IN THE ISLAND OF PORTO RICO.

"SECTION 1. From and after the approval of these regulations, no house or building, storehouse, store, warehouse, etc., can be constructed without submitting to the sanitary service a special plan providing that the floor of the lower story be made of concrete when the floor is not to be a sufficient height from the ground to permit free access; or the wooden floor may be placed immediately on top of the concrete without leaving any space which may serve as a refuge for rats (no wood or other inferior material shall be used under the flooring. Concrete floors shall have walls of concrete or stone extending at least 2 feet below the surface of surrounding ground and shall also have a concrete or masonry wall extending 1 foot above the level of the floor, the walls of buildings to fit flush on top of concrete or masonry walls); and what other means are to be adopted in order that said buildings and establishments may be rat proof are to be clearly specified. The sanitary service is authorized to approve or to make in said plans the changes which the case may require, without which approval the work, which must conform in each case to the definitely approved plan, can not be commenced.

"The plans must be sent directly to the health officer: *Provided*, That these regulations shall be understood as amplifying the provisions concerning plans in the regulations now in force concerning constructions.

"Sec. 2. In houses and buildings already constructed the following rules shall be observed:

"Dwelling houses which have the floor of the lower story of wood shall be made rat-proof by (1) raising the floor to a height of at least 2 feet from the ground with all

underpinning free, or (2) shall have all space beneath flooring made rat-proof by a foundation wall of stone or concrete extending below surface of ground to depth of 2 feet and fitting flush the floor of house. All decayed wood must be replaced.

"SEC. 3. In no dwelling house or building shall food, remnants of food, or other matter which may be made use of by the rats be kept, except when placed in pantries, storerooms, or receptacles constructed so as to be inaccessible to said rodents.

"SEC. 4. Roofs, garrets, courtyards, yards, alleys, cellars, and any other open space belonging to houses or buildings must be kept free from food, garbage, forage, and other material which may serve as food or as a refuge for rats.

"SEC. 5. Sinks, drains, gutters, and private sewers shall be kept strictly clean.

"SEC. 6. Coconut-palm trees, mango, and fruit trees which furnish food for rats and are situated in gardens or orchards of any house or building within the city limits or within the neighborhood of any town, at the discretion of the health officer and with the approval of the director of health, shall be kept free of rats, first exterminating those already existing, and protecting the trunk of the tree with a band of tin or zinc and other suitable means to render the trees inaccessible to the rodents.

"SEC. 7. Every building intended for a market, warehouse, storehouse, bakery, macaroni factory, distillery, pastry shops, stores, groceries, wine cellars, piers, hotels, cafés, restaurants, eating houses and booths shall be subject to the rules prescribed for dwelling houses and buildings: *Provided, notwithstanding*, That markets, piers, warehouses, and any storehouse of provisions must necessarily have the floor of concrete or plaster, and further:

"(a) Provisions and other articles in storehouses or on sale at wholesale or retail shall be kept in piles placed upon platforms which shall be at least a foot above the pavement, and arranged in rows, leaving free spaces between to permit of easy cleaning and for sanitary inspection. The floor shall be kept free of provisions spilled either through breakage or through handling of the receptacles which contained them.

"(b) Groceries, small shops, and other establishments which sell at retail shall have all the provisions for daily consumption in lockers or cupboards placed in such a way that they shall be inaccessible to rats.

"SEC. 8. Lots and ground not built upon within the city limits shall be subject to the preceding regulations which may be applicable.

"SEC. 9. Barnyard fowls shall not be kept within the city limits of any town except under the following conditions:

"A rat-proof henhouse shall be constructed which must have a concrete floor as well as walls of the same material, which shall be sunk in the ground to a depth of 2 feet and raised 1 foot above the level of the floor. This surface must be surrounded by wire netting which shall have a half-inch mesh and be 6 feet high. Food intended for the fowls must be kept within these henhouses so that it shall not be accessible to rats, and it will not be permitted in any case to deposit it outside.

"SEC. 10. Stables and stalls within the city limits must fulfill the following conditions:

"1. Each horse cared for shall have a space of not less than 5 square meters.

"2. The floor shall be of concrete and with an adequate slope, as of one-eighth of an inch per foot.

"3. Upon this concrete floor may be placed planks for a floor for the horses; this shall be made in parts or sections so that it may be easily raised. The boards which form the floor shall be separated by at least 2 inches.

"4. The sections or parts of the floor must be raised once a week in order to do the necessary cleaning.

"5. Each stable shall be provided with a well lined with cement in which to deposit the manure, the well to have a capacity of at least one-fourth of a cubic meter for each horse. Said receptacle shall have a well-fitting cover divided into two sections.

"6. The manure shall be placed in said receptacles and carefully covered. The cleaning of said wells or receptacles shall be done once a week and the manure carried to the place which the director of health may designate.

"7. The stable, stall, manger, and their surroundings must be kept strictly clean.

"8. Grain to be used as food for the live stock shall be kept in a rat-proof box.

"9. Each manger shall be placed at a minimum distance of 2 feet from the wall or building and its sides shall have a slope of 2 inches toward the bottom and shall be covered with tin or zinc, and the said manger shall be at least 18 inches deep to avoid the spilling of food.

"SEC. 11. These conditions must be fulfilled within a period of time which the director of health in each case shall fix in accordance with the importance of the work and the means to be obtained in that locality.

"SEC. 12. Every infraction of any of the rules set forth in these regulations shall be punished with a maximum fine of \$100, and the director of health shall have the necessary work done at the expense of the owner, in accordance with the law of sanitation in force: *Provided*, That those persons who prove that they do not possess more than one piece of property whose value does not exceed \$100, according to the official assessment, shall be exempt from payment, and the said work shall be done, in this case, at the expense of the public treasury."

Being so promulgated, and having been published in two newspapers of general circulation in the island, in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of Act No. 81, approved March 14, 1912, the said rules and regulations, entitled "Regulations governing the construction and making rat-proof of all buildings and outhouses in the island of Porto Rico," on and after this date have the force and effect of law.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Government of Porto Rico to be affixed at the city of San Juan, this 15th day of July, A. D. 1912.

[SEAL.]

M. DREW CARREL,
Acting Governor.

Promulgated according to law, July 15, 1912.

R. SIACA PACHECO,
Acting Secretary of Porto Rico.

San Juan—Inspection of Outgoing Freight.

All freight leaving San Juan is subject to inspection and fumigated if its character is such as to render possible the harboring of rats. All cars are inspected, and if not rat proof are remanded to the railroad shop for the purpose of making them so. A copy of instructions to inspectors follows:

To inspectors in charge of freight inspection:

For your information and guidance the following directions for the inspection of freight are hereby given.

All packages loaded into cars will fall under two classes:

1. Those which will have to be fumigated.
2. Those which can be inspected and passed.

In a general way those packages which can be passed by inspection are as follows:

All boxes and barrels which are unbroken and which do not permit a rat to enter, if packed outside of San Juan.

All freight contained in unbroken sacks; baled hay—this last-named article shall be thoroughly inspected.

The following articles in a general way will require either to be repacked or subjected to a sulphur fumigation:

Merchandise packed within San Juan; any crated material, especially chinaware or crockery or any articles which are packed in hay or straw, whether they originated in San Juan or outside of San Juan, irrespective of their origin; any barrel or boxed goods in which the container has been broken so as to admit the entrance of a rat. All goods within any container whatever which will permit the harboring of a rat.

These will be your general instructions. You will, necessarily, have to use discretion in difficult cases, and you will bend your energies to see that no article or freight that could contain a rat leaves the depot. All cars must be loaded by daylight. After a car has been completely loaded it shall be sealed, and you will attach a paster across the seal.

In order not to duplicate fumigation of freight, as soon as the fumigation room is open and you can enter in safety, you will immediately attach a fumigation paster to each article. In all cases of freight in which you are not certain as to whether they should be passed or fumigated you will call up this office by telephone for further instructions.

Respectfully,

R. H. CREEL,
*Passed Assistant Surgeon,
Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.*

Dorado.

The case of plague reported at Dorado July 15 was in the person of a 14-year-old boy, who had not been out of Dorado, and his infection, therefore, presumably occurred at that place. Active measures have